

INSIDE: FIELD TURF, SPRING BREAK STORIES, RYMAN AUDITORIUM

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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MBA Swings For Fences

Pitching Is Key To Success



Senior Andrew Warfield bats for The Big Red in Phoenix, AZ

by JEFFEBERLE
Staff Writer

There is one common theme when it comes to a winning baseball team: great pitching. One could look back in baseball history to find several great pitching staffs. In the 1950's it was Warren Spahn and Lou Burdette of the Milwaukee Braves. Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale dominated the sixties. Power and finesse are two of the many characteristics to describe Maddux, Glavine, and Smoltz, who garnered several Cy Young awards for the Atlanta Braves in the nineties.

The 2006 MBA varsity baseball team is no different. The big four of Michael Crum, Todd Miller, Andrew Triggs, and Frank Adelman will carry the team this season. The experience of Michael, Andrew, and Todd, with the addition of southpaw, Frank, might just be enough to bring another state championship home for the Big Red.

During Spring Break, the Big Red traveled to Arizona to groove their game before returning home for league play. They played five games in Phoenix, winning two and losing three. The Big Red looked great, especially the pitchers, who kept the score close even in the three losses. They also gelled as a team, a vital factor in producing a winning product. Playing the competitive teams in Arizona that the Big Red faced should make their schedule back in Nashville a little easier. An exciting highlight of the tournament was Andrew Triggs' striking out a Cal-State Fullerton signer.

MBA has great prospects, including Jon Eisen and Andrew Harris

playing middle infield, Jas Raider playing catcher, pitcher, and outfield, and Frank Adelman as a starting pitcher. Rascoe Dean, Allen Riley, and Stephanos Stroop will provide the power for the Big Red while Nick Power and Andrew Warfield will bring speed to the basepaths. Brooks Tate will also bring lots of experience behind the plate. The team's goals are simple: to win the region and reclaim that state championship. Morgan Gregory, third baseman, indicates that this year's team is a tighter group than those of the recent past. As Morgan confidently states, "Once we get the offense, defense, and pitching all working as one, it's gonna be scary." Certainly if the pitching remains strong, this year could be another title year for the Big Red!

Big Red Lacrosse Of '06

by TRAVIS BRANNON
Staff Writer

The lacrosse team is off to an energetic start in their 2006 season. Cutting down the size of the team, new coach John Harvey hoped to create a powerful synergy that existed between the names of the new roster. Returning attackmen Chris Cahill and Jim Witherspoon have powered through most of the competition's defenses with the help of Sloan Sanders, Hunter Armistead, and the offensive middle squad. On the other side of the field a strong line of seniors, consisting of James Banker, Luke Brown, and Terrell McWhirter, hold attacking offenses to very few goals against junior goalie Carver Morgan, who is having an outstanding year. The team

opened up the season with a win against the Ohio team of St. Xavier in Cincinnati. The Big Red returned from their first trip with two wins over strong competition under their belts and momentum into regular league play. The next three games were characterized by complete MBA control. MBA traveled to Knoxville to beat Farragut 22-5. The next week, on the field of 42nd street, the Big Red stomped Father Ryan 17-4 and Webb-Bell Buckle 19-2. Now with an undefeated league record, the team marched into Atlanta as soon as spring break began. Wasting no time, MBA played two strong games against Lassiter and Lovett. Lassiter fell to the Big Red pain train by seven points,

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Students Traverse "The Pond" On Annual Trip

by TAYLOR SHOPE
News Editor

The London trip this year was a success in every sense of the word. There were seventeen participants, including fourteen seniors. The group toured all of the major sights in London, including Westminster Abbey, the

Millennium Bridge, and St. Paul's Cathedral. Several of the art museums were also on the list, including the Tate Britain, Tate Modern, and the National Gallery. The British Museum was the highlight of the museum tours with artifacts and manuscripts from all over the world including the Rosetta Stone, several original parts of the Parthenon in Athens, and assorted artifacts from all parts of the Roman Empire.

Outside of the museums, the theater was our most important activity. We attended the first production, a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, on the first night we arrived in England. Chase Altenbern, who was still at Eton, joined us for the production that night, even though all of us were severely jet-lagged from the day's travel. The second play that we saw was done in the crypt of a church, and in a very different style called promenade, where the audience follows the actors through the set, and even participates in the play to a certain degree. Jez Butterworth's *The Winterling* was the third and final production, done in a traditional Brecht style. It was the heavy

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Inside the London Eye, Mr. Malcolm Morrison leads the London trip



THE BELL RINGER

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Spring Break at MBA

by JUSTIN HALL
Sports Editor

Spring break is a time for students to relax, hang out with friends, perform service to the community, and above all, not think *once* about school. Whether your trip was sun-bound, snow-bound, sports-bound, service-bound, or Nashville-bound, Spring Break is one of the best breaks of the year.

Beach destinations varied from class to class. The Caymans were a popular destination for the senior classes at MBA, HH, and SCA. Student body President Deon Gaines said of the Caymans that "it was a great chance for a pretty good group of HH, SCA, and MBA students to take a week off and enjoy some of our last times together before we go off to college. That's what you remember about high school the most, your friends and the times y'all spent together, and the Caymans were a perfect place to enjoy some great memories with each other."

A host of juniors from HH and MBA headed down to Cabo

San Lucas, Mexico to enjoy a week of Pacific sun. One HH junior, who wished to remain anonymous, described the experience as "a good time to relax and tan and hang out and tan and all this other cool stuff. Oh yeah, there were boys too, which was nice." She obviously meant that the memories of friends and fun would last forever, unlike the tan.

A large percentage of the sophomores made Long Boat Key, Florida their residence for a week. It was a week filled with fun, friends, and plenty of sun.

The freshmen and scattered upperclassmen took the usual journey down to Destin and Seaside, Florida. Despite the occasional colder weather, Destin remains a hotspot for spring break activity. According to junior Steve "the Steve" Dolan, "The golf courses were great, and there were plenty of people from Nashville to hang out with."

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Many Seniors of MBA, HH, and SCA travelled to the Cayman Islands for Spring Break

Juniors Putting Final Touches On Prom Preparation

by TRAVIS BRANNON
Junior Class Secretary

In two weeks, on April 22nd, MBA's junior class will present this year's senior dinner, presentation, and dance. The junior class has about \$25,000 in the bank from concession sales and from a record-setting poinsettia sale.

The dinner begins at 6:30 in the library, which will be completely transformed into a formal dining experience, with white table cloths, fine crystal, flowers abounding, and delicious food from one of Nashville's finest caterers.

The seniors will proceed from the dinner to backstage of the theater, as they prepare for one of life's most exciting moments: a formal presentation before a theater crowded with friends and family and faculty. The presentation begins at 8:00.

The set for the presentation will reflect this year's theme of "Medieval Castle", and the seniors and their dates will appear for the audience through the castle door and over a drawbridge.

After the presentation, at about 8:40, the dance begins, and no one will be able to resist the body's need to dance when the Percy Person Band begins to play.

This special evening is reserved for juniors and seniors and their dates. All juniors and seniors do need to get dates as soon as possible so that the girls can decide on dresses and the various items needed for beauty enhancement.

The Bell Ringer welcomes the following faculty and students on exchange to MBA:

From Lindisfarne College,
in Hastings, New Zealand

From Winchester College,
in Winchester, England

From Eton College,
in Windsor, England

From Humboldt School,
in Wiesbaden, Germany

Faculty: James (social sciences) and Allison Francis
Students: Jake Firman and Antony Desposito

Students: Charlie Williams and Danny Ross

Students: Henry Edwards and Charlie Macpherson

Students: Kay Klein, Maarten van der Wulp, Benedikt Krissel, and Paul Fachndrich

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? OPINIONS? IDEAS?

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9th-Grade Happenings

by DANIEL GREEN
Staff Writer

The freshmen have been as active as ever in the MBA community these past couple of months. The JV Baseball team has had key contributions from Freshmen in their first and only game yet this season (due to two cancellations), both from Chris Vincent's skilled pitching and from Davis Hunt's and Owen Libscomb's strong, clutch defense in a 5-3 win over McGavock High School. The JV Lacrosse team has started off 6-0 with great help from many freshmen. Wade Longmire, Wesley Johnson, Kile Garrett, Crawford Standard, Scott Ramsey, and Matt Wieck have all contributed multiple goals in the team's six wins, and Trip Shearer, Barrett Jacques, and Connor Shope (in goal) have all helped to anchor the defensive efforts and create offensive potency with quick counterattacks on clears. Congratulations to Bailey Brandon who made goalie for the varsity lacrosse team and is the only Frosh on varsity. For the JV soccer team, Reed Stanberry has been the only Frosh to score, though Will Overton has played strong defense in the both of the Big Red's games. For varsity soccer, Houston Oldham and Max Jarrell have both had multiple goals and Brandon Dockery has had consistent and solid performances each game as the Frosh helped the Big Red reach 4-1. And finally, the Varsity tennis team has had important contributions from Freshman Richard Brunsting in their two wins.

Tenth-Grade Chit-Chat

by JAY MILAM
Staff Writer

Sophomores have continued their impressive achievements into the last quarter of the school year. The Varsity Lacrosse team began the season with impressive wins over Lassiter and Christian Brothers. Sloan Sanders has been a great addition to the offense, playing his best game recently against Christian Brothers. Chase Taylor has been playing stellar defense, while Mike Byrge helped to annihilate Farragut 22-5 by winning 16 of 22 face-offs and recording a team-high 8 ground balls.

Rand Woodson was placed on the 2006 All-Midstate Bowling team. Jimmy Okot and Alex Darsinos are both starting on Varsity Soccer, and Darsinos scored an impressive three goals against Hendersonville. The MBA Science Olympiad team recently took home 1st place thanks to the group of Krzysztof Zienkiewicz and Matt Sternberg placing 2nd in Forensics and the team of Krzysztof and Eric Beiter winning the Chemistry Lab. Max Webster enthusiastically competed in the regional Poetry Out Loud competition.

In Debate news: Corey Metzman reached the quarterfinals in Varsity Lincoln-Douglas at Vestavia Hills Tournament, and Rasha' Harvey and Donesh Ferdowsi made it to the quarterfinals in Varsity Policy. In Extemporaneous Speaking, John Moynihan won 2nd place overall, while Max Webster followed in 3rd place. John Moynihan qualified for Nationals in Extemporaneous Speaking, with Max Webster as the alternate.

The JV Lacrosse team has racked up an impressive record of 8-0 thanks to the scoring of John Ramsey and Ben Crownover and clutch saves by Will Hastings. Coach Golenow wants everyone to remember to work at the concession stands and wants 100% participation in the Relay for Life!

Senior Status-ish

by MICHAEL MARKS
Staff Writer

The Senior Slide continues, as seniors on PL rejoice for having less than a month left (due to AP's in early May).

A lot of seniors got into a large number of great, good, and mediocre colleges.

Thanks to the brilliance of Kevin Seitz, the awe-inspiring knowledge of Parkes Brittain, and the fashionable Afro of Nathan Steakley, the Seniors ensured victory over the Harpeth Hall Honeybears in the Relay For Life Quiz Bowl. Many thanks to the Sophomore and Junior classes for their help in the victory over the girls. Thanks to the Freshman Class for taking one for the team... and not completely embarrassing Harpeth Hall.

The Senior Class would like to politely remind Mr. Gioia that the showing of the "Da Vinci Code" on the last day of school conflicts with a real MBA tradition, the Senior Prank.

Days until Graduation: 40

Days until the Development Office starts to ask for donations: 39

Seniors had a fun and responsible Spring Break. End of Discussion.

To the Class of 2006, let's have an awesome 4th Quarter. We deserve it.

Junior Lifestyles

by TRAVIS BRANNON
Staff Writer

The junior class has been busy during their last few months as underclassmen. Juniors can be found in the junior room tearing apart sudoku's, contributing to the spring sports teams, playing intense games of wallball on the entrance to Tommy Owen stadium, and serving the community of Nashville.

On the soccer team, Drew Andrews, Denis Bermudez, Weston Cowden, Clayton Foster, Andrew Gibbs, Greg Harbison, Brandon Harrington, Trey McMinn, Mark Piana, Zach Richardson, and Tyler Yarbrough have all had a great season with wins over Hendersonville, McGavock, BA, CPA, and others.

Scott Schwartz, Morgan Gregory, Todd Miller, Andrew Triggs, and Matt Kimball have competed well on the baseball team to achieve their record of 10-3, which includes their trip to Arizona, where they competed in the Eagle Invitational. Hayes Arnold, Reed Blackwell, Will Bryant, Charlie Byrge, Matt Crook, Chris Geer, Treanor Granbery, David Howe, Jack Hudson, Brendan Kiefer, Russel Mack, Guy McClure, Charlie Plageman, Nathan Sears, Alex Smith, David Smith, Rich Tompkins, Will Turner, Jonathan Usry, and Jamey Vick have all had a great season on the track team. The team recently took a trip to Chattanooga, where Reed Blackwell high jumped 6'4" to obtain a third place trophy. The team itself came in fourth in the invitational.

Ian Anderson, Stockton Beveridge, Travis Brannon, Chris Cahill, Stephen "The Pain Train" Dolan, Wes McKeithan, Tate McNeilly, Carver Morgan, Rob Phipps, Garrett Ramsey, and Gentry Smith have all played exceptionally well this season in lacrosse, giving the team a strong record of 9-3. Chris Cahill leads the league in assists with 28.

In other news, Chase Altenbern recently returned from a three-month exchange to Eton College in Britain. The rifle team is preparing for their upcoming tournament. Finally, the Science Olympiad team dominated in Knoxville last weekend, obtaining three state championships, 5 second-, and 6 third-place medals. Ugh, big diesel! The junior year is on the road to a strong finish.

Spring Break

Continued from p. 2

Outside of the usual sunny trips were various skiing trips, a few mission trips, and activities in Nashville. While the weather in Nashville was somewhat gloomy, a group of 40 or so able-bodied teenagers spent their time in Tijuana, Mexico working on a mission trip through First Presbyterian Church. "While it was kinda creepy that we had to have a guard and disgusting that we couldn't shower, it was rewarding to build three houses for three very deserving Mexican families," says senior Chase Cato. He adds, "It was also really cool to chill at the campfire and spend the night in a tent every night."

So whether you're chillin' with your friends out of town, performing service in the community, or just hangin' around Nashville, spring break proves to be both a nice break from school, and a chance to create some lasting memories.

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ON-CAMPUS REPORTS

New Field Turf Still "Settling In"

by DAVID WHEELER
News Editor

The sacred ground of the MBA varsity football field has undergone a drastic renovation in the past several months. The traditional grass has been ripped up and replaced by a state-of-the-art surface called Field Turf which provides many advantages.

The project, spearheaded by the donation of Joe Davis, has been slowly taking shape throughout the winter. The new field is ready for use. One advantage provided by the new surface is its relative resistance to wear and tear, which should ease the burden on the maintenance staff

during football season. Furthermore, the field will look and play the same despite changes in the weather. As Coach Rutledge says, the field has "almost better traction when it rains."

The field itself is composed of a layer of gravel with a carpet of grass rolled out on top of it. The key ingredients, however, are the sand-like rubber pellets that have been mixed into the field through a long process of spreading. These simulate a real grass surface by adding traction and cushion to the playing field.

Have you ever been strolling casually across the old football field, minding your own business, when you

hear a voice yell from in the distance, "GET OFF THE FIELD!!"? Never again will this happen. The field turf can withstand a lot of wear and tear and can be used year-round. In fact, walking on the field might actually be encouraged at this stage in the turf's installation as part of the "break in" process to help the rubber particles settle deeper into the mat.

Reactions to the turf have generally been favorable. A number of the football players have expressed excitement at the opportunity to play on the high-tech surface. This is good, considering that eight of their ten games next year will be played on Field Turf. In addition to the home games, the team will play on Field Turf at MUS, Christian Brothers, Trinity, and Dunbar (KY). Coach Rutledge says about the turf, "I think it's going to be a fast surface." He also adds that there will be no more wash out practices for the football team (as there were so many before) and it may actually help the team out to practice in the rain on the turf. Ultimately, however, the installation of the field turf will help out every sport by providing a field that can be used at any time by any team without the concern of damaging the formerly delicate but still very precious varsity football field.



New Field Turf makes is virtually indestructable

Brighton Meets Demolition Team

by ALECMCGUFFEY
Features Editor

For several years, MBA has been in the process of acquiring the fifteen homes along Brighton Road. With eleven down, and four to go, the school is well on its way to completing this goal. The eleven houses that MBA owns have all been demolished, and the other four are in the process of being purchased. One of these four houses has actually recently been given to MBA by the owner; another is still privately owned; the last two are rental homes, so it is only a matter of time before they are purchased as well. While it may seem that these houses have been taken down fairly quickly, the actual process that must be completed before anything can be done is quite extensive. I spoke with Headmaster Gioia to find out more about this process.

First, what must be done before anything is demolished: MBA has to obtain permits from the city allowing the school to take down the houses. While many houses fitting the Brighton homes' descriptions are not allowed to be taken down because of historical significance (any home built more than 50 years ago), the Brighton houses were never actually conceived as part of a greater community, and thus are not as significant as some older neighborhoods nearby. Still, Mr. Gioia points out, "It is never easy to encroach on others living around the

school." To prevent further encroachment by the school, as soon as the homes are taken down, a barrier will be placed between the site of the homes and any non-MBA homes that may be located behind the demolished ones.

Once a permit is received by the school, destruction of the house can only begin after certain environmental precautions are taken. Any potentially dangerous substances inside (or beneath) the homes must be removed to prevent contamination of the area around the house. Also, to try to give back to the community and make this transition as easy as possible, MBA allows prior and nearby residents to check their homes for anything that may hold a sentimental place in their hearts. "The school also donates all usable goods from the homes to Habitat for Humanity," adds Mr. Gioia. Once all precautions are taken, and after all usable material is stripped from the homes for worthwhile causes, the actual demolition of the homes can take place. Chances are you saw and heard the bulldozers last year, so I'm sure you have a decent idea of what the actual demolition process looks like.

There is no real set period over which construction on new property will begin, since MBA has no real control over the decisions of the owners of those last four houses. However, once the school does demolish the last of those houses, it will move the tennis courts to the vacated area so as to add more parking spaces

where the tennis courts are currently located. It's hard to imagine what MBA will look like in twenty years, but with such grand and expansive plans for addition to our already fine campus, it is hard to see how these new plans could be anything but beneficial.



Piles of dirt stand where Brighton houses once were. Take that Neighborhood Watch!

MBA Not To Consider Pool

by JIMMY BALSER
Staff Writer

In the last few years of MBA sports, swimming hasn't exactly been a state or national competitor in the way football or soccer has been. But no more! In the coming years a huge number of competitive new athletes will be moving up to the varsity swim team. In fact, the number of MBA's varsity swimmers will probably triple, making it one of the fastest teams in the state. With a state championship in sight, it seems that now would be the time to solve the long-standing problem of the practice pool. For years, MBA has been using the Nashville recreational center as its practice location. This set-up was fine when the students at MBA were let out at 2:50, in the pool by 3:00, and out at 4:00. Because we're now let out as late as 3:30, and the swimmers need to be out of the pool by 4:00, there simply isn't enough practice time. Swimmers have been calling for the administration to build an on- or off- campus pool. But is this a realistic request? Mr. Rundberg, the head swim coach before Mr. Carter, says no. When asked why, he explained: "There isn't any space, and also because of liability issues, maintenance, and upkeep." He agreed, however, that a swimming pool could not only be very beneficial for swimmers, but also for summer camps and fitness. If an MBA swimming pool is too much of a luxury for now, what is the solution to the pool problem? Mr. Rundberg recommends switching to a new complex, like Pearl-Cohn, for the time being. If a pool that is normally closed during the winter could be kept open, it could be the solution to the swim team's problem.

McGuffey Compares Senior, Junior Rooms

by ALECMCGUFFEY
Features Editor

Across MBA's vast campus, there are hundreds of rooms. Some are classrooms, some are bathrooms, and some are just closets. Two of these rooms, however, hold a special place in the hearts of Juniors and Seniors alike. They are, you guessed it, the aptly named Junior and Senior Rooms. At any given time of day, you can walk into Carter and see Juniors 'studying' or looking at college guides in their spacious and well-furnished room. A few hundred feet away, in the basement of Ball, you can peek into the Senior Room and see Seniors, well, probably doing anything but studying.



The Senior Room in the Basement of the Ball Building is dark and relaxing

Let's face it, the Senior Room isn't exactly built for school work. With two couches and a dysfunctional computer, there really isn't anywhere to settle in and work. Conversely, the Junior Room has just two purposes: the first is to read college guides and, in turn, become so intimidated that you force yourself to use the room for its only other purpose: studying.

It is obvious that both rooms have their advantages: the Junior Room is never dark, and you can always count on finding at least a few classmates there. Also, if you have no work to do, there is never a lack of reading material in the Junior room. The Senior Room is the perfect place to just kick back and forget that you are even at school. Plus, it has a computer, while the Junior Room does not.

Both rooms have evident disadvantages as well: the Junior Room seems much too study-oriented, with no real places to relax. Also, there are considerable noise limitations because of the offices surrounding the room. The Senior Room is pretty dark, and when someone sits on either couch, he is immediately at almost ground level. (Although some people like this about the couches, I have also heard complaints).

I asked a few Juniors what changes they would like to see in the Junior Room, and I received some pretty definite answers. The most popular demand was for a computer inside the

Junior Room. Like the Senior Room computer, it would be great to have a computer specifically for Juniors, especially for printing off that last minute theme. Also, I received some requests for a Junior Couch. While a couch in the Junior Room would probably meet the same fate as those in the Senior Room, it would be a nice change from the stiff-backed chairs currently installed there. Speaking of which, new seating would be great also. Maybe some of the rolling chairs from the science building?

The Seniors also had some requests. First, they would really like some nice, new couches. As mentioned earlier in the article, the current couches tend to sag a bit when sat on. If, on the



off chance a senior actually wanted to do work on one of these couches, something slightly sturdier might lead to a more effective study session. Secondly, and this would probably nullify the need for new couches, the seniors would like an entirely new senior room, one that is not located right next to so many of MBA's financial offices. It really isn't fair for these employees to have to put up with the seniors, and vice versa. I think at least a few minor changes could be considered, specifically new couches and a Junior computer. A completely new Senior Room wouldn't hurt either.



The Junior Room of the Carter Building holds sunlight and stiff chairs

Gibbs Tackles the Beast

- Q & A With Michael Swett -

by ANDREW GIBBS
Staff Writer

As I prepared to interview one of my personal heroes, I spent several weeks without sleep. I wanted to investigate the life of MBA student athletes, but why did I decide to ask Michael Swett? What led me to sit down with the same man who had more sacks than he could count, blocked punts for fun, power-cleaned innocent civilians, destroyed any and all competitors on the wrestling mat, and ate five BA students in one bite? Days before my scheduled encounter, just the thought of his mammoth presence sent chills down my spine. As I sat down face-to-face with the beast, a sense of courage overcame my fear and I fired away.

Q: So Mike, have you power cleaned anyone lately?

A: Not lately. (Laughs) The BA game was the last time.

Q: What is the best thing about being an athlete at MBA?

A: Being an athlete is something that I've always wanted to be. As an underclassman I looked up to guys like Lee Noel and Michael Fisher. I admired how hard they worked to get better. I just wanted to be remembered for representing my school. Of course, wrestling was different because Coach Jenkins, my history teacher, made me do it. It's been a lot of fun. I wish I could continue to play in high school. It's a special time because so many guys who won't get the chance to play college ball can compete by playing on heart.

Q: What is the hardest thing that MBA athletes have to deal with?

A: Mostly just school. Keeping your grades up is tough. MBA is really difficult academically, but it encourages you to work hard. I'm proud of myself.

Q: Which coach would you like to power-clean the most?

A: Joe Davis! I love the guy, but he talks so much smack. It's not personal, but I would like to see if I could power clean

him. It could be tough because he has a little weight on him. I love Joe.

Q: You've spent a lot of time with your teammates over the years. What was the funniest moment?

A: One time before practice the receivers were warming up, and Coach Gruber hit Teddy Christenberry right in the... (privates). I almost died laughing.

Q: Has there ever been a moment when a coach truly scared you?

A: Yes, my junior year after the MUS game. Coach Redmond was so mad. I almost wanted to quit. Of course, when you look back on it it's funny.



The feared, the revered, Mike Swett

Q: What makes the perfect sack?

A: My junior year against MUS, the quarterback rolled out on a bootleg to my side. I was going left, but I read the play and chased him to my right. I caught him, threw him down, and jumped back up. I was so pumped up after that play.

Q: What is going through your head before a wrestling match?

A: It's a scary, exciting feeling. The matches against BA and Ryan are the best. The thing about wrestling is that you can't have any doubt. You have to give all you've got on the mat. It takes a lot of physical and mental preparation to wrestle.

Q: What is your best MBA memory?

A: Winning state as a sophomore. It's the best feeling in the world. Even though I didn't play, it was awesome. I really cherished that moment, because you never know if you'll be back.

Q: What will you miss most about being an athlete at MBA?

A: I remember when I first got here, I wasn't sure if I would be that much of an athlete. Then, I realized that I could do whatever I wanted if I worked hard. As a sophomore I wanted to take a year off from football, but my dad said, "No. No way." That made me so much better. It's

LETTERS FROM AFAR

Eton College?: A Tale Of A Little Island

by CHASE ALTENBERN
Staff Writer

So, what is Eton College? Often it is simply referred to as, "Where Prince William and Prince Harry went to school," but Eton is so much more than that. Upon my return to Nashville, I was bombarded by the constant, "You're back! How

these houses on the campus, and the Dame still resides in the house as the nurse/mother/second-in-command after the House Master. It is not a surprise that Eton is the wealthiest school in England, as it was built up by the elite upper class. Each House Master is a teacher at Eton and serves for a term of 13 years, if he lasts. The houses are therefore named by the House Master's initials, in order to

dining room. This meant that I could roll out of bed at 7:50 every morning and shuffle downstairs for breakfast before school started at 8:40. Surprisingly, I missed SAGE while in England. Our food was cooked by a man similar to the sloppy joe lady from *Billy Madison* and was frequently unidentified. Often I would ask my friends, "What is this food?" The common response was, "Don't ask. Just eat." Mostly, though, our food consisted of potatoes. I have never seen so many uses of the food: Boiled potatoes, mashed potatoes, skinned potatoes, baked potatoes, chips (French fries), potato waffles, potato tubes, tater tots...you name it, they had it. The problem with the food was the lack of choice, which renews my appreciation about MBA's cafeteria. Often we were served meals without any choice except what they put on your plate.

Eton is also a school known for its somewhat odd traditions and the fervent preservation of its customs. An entire lexicon specific to Eton has developed over its 566 years of existence. For example, a teacher is called a "Beak", an "Oppidan" is any boy who is not in College (from the latin *oppidum* meaning town), and a "Tug" is a slang word for a collegier. One of the most interesting definitions is for the term "capping", which means to acknowledge a Master in the street by raising the index finger briefly. Additionally, many sports have been developed which are only played at Eton or have even expanded into other

However, Eton is also a growing school adapting to the modern world. Every room is equipped with internet access, and there is a school-wide use of laptops. Their science facilities have independent research labs and full-time technicians who are able to set up elaborate devices to give examples for students in classes. Recently, while I was still at Eton, a woman was appointed to be the house master for College, breaking a long speculation of sexism, as no woman had ever been appointed as a house master in the school's 566 year existence.

Eton has also seen its fair share of British aristocracy and now famous Old Etonians (alumni). Famous Old Etonians include George Orwell and John Maynard Keynes, as well as 18 former Prime Ministers. I did see Prince William while I was there, as he came back to play the Field Game with other Old Etonians. I met the Prince of Saudia Arabia, as well as his gigantic bodyguard who followed him in a Land Rover all day. There was no end to the amount of Lords, Honorable whatnots, and other titles of nobility among the boys I met. The great thing about the Eton environment, though, was that you could have some of the poorest boys in England there on scholarship or some of the wealthiest in the world, but when they are at Eton, everyone is equal and no one is given more opportunity over someone else. Also, the inter-house rivalries and sports competitions added another level to the excitement of life at Eton, especially as my house won the



Players of Eton's unique "Field Game" don't need silly pads.

was...wherever you were?" or, "You're back! How was that place?" The school was so much more than a "wherever" or a "place", it was a legendary and unforgettable locale. Oh yeah, in England, when they use the word *college*, they mean the American *high school*...silly Brits.

'The King's College of Our Lady Eton beside Windsor', or Eton College, for very short, was founded by King Henry VI in 1440 (an age only surpassed by Winchester College, another MBA sister school). This ancient date became unforgettable in my mind, because many Etonians, as the students are called, enjoyed constantly reminding me that their school was older than my country. The original school consisted of 70 King's Scholars who were given full scholarships based on an exam given to prospective students, which was meant to challenge even the brightest of young scholars. This group of boys still functions as it did when founded, and the boys are referred to as 'collegiers', as their house is referred to as College. They still live in the same accommodations as the original boys and still form the best and brightest, perhaps, in most of England and in other countries as well. Kyle Davis didn't make the cut, I suppose.

Now, as the school grew in popularity, many of the wealthy upper class wanted a share in the action. The school allowed other boys to be admitted so long as they paid the large tuition, which nowadays is approaching \$35,000. Perhaps we have a new Eton of America in MBA. These wealthy families then built large houses in which the boys could live and hired maids and a Dame to take care of their children at boarding school. There are now 25, each containing 50 boys, of

reduce confusion. For example, my house is called the Manor House, but would be referred to as ALHG because our house master was Dr. Andrew Gailey. As Dr. Gailey is in the last few months of his 13 year stint, he has become somewhat of a legend and has had both Prince William and Prince Harry under his command in ALHG.

The social hierarchy among the Etonians forms a very important system of authority. The most elite are elected by members of the school to be in "Pop". Pop consists of around 20 boys who are considered to be prefects and have some minor responsibilities with the younger boys. The benefits of being in Pop, though, are the grey pants and waistcoats of any design or fabric which members of the society are allowed to wear as their uniform. The standard uniform consists of black dress shoes, black socks, black pants, a waistcoat, a white button down with a false collar and a tie made of a strip of cloth, and most importantly, a tailcoat. Also, boys who are in their final year (called B Block) and who have minor responsibilities are allowed to wear wing collars with a white bowtie. Additionally, the Sixth Form Select, a group of 20 boys who represent the academic elite of the school, wear silver buttons on braided waistcoats. The different age groups are called "blocks," and they range from F-Block (8th graders) to B-Block (Sainyers). Each house, therefore, has about ten boys in each year.

The most frequent question was always "How was the food?" Well, half of the houses have dining rooms in the house where the boys eat all of their meals, and half of the houses eat in a large dining hall. Luckily, my house had a



Cloisters, the offices of Eton College and home of its headmaster

local schools. The Field Game is a game specific to Eton and a sort of hybrid of Rugby and Soccer with loads of offside rules. Eton Fives is a version of handball which was originally played in the alcove of one of the buttresses on the outside of the College Chapel. They now have built many courts which are actually cast in cement to be an exact replica of this three-sided wall on campus. Most interesting is the Wall Game, which is a form of Rugby in which two sides push each other along a wall, and progress across the long wall is slow and arduous.

Field Game championship and, therefore, were World Champions of Field Game, as it is played nowhere else.

By Far, the Eton College Exchange is the most life-altering of all our programs. Spending three months of your life in a foreign country is not always easy, and at times it feels as if I never was there, but the time away was invaluable and a refreshing break from the rigors and commitments at home. I made friends whom I will keep in touch with for the rest of my life, and I would think it a disgrace were this amazing exchange ever to end.

Project Graduation Disco Dance



Will Barge(l) and Jordan Dockery(r) are: "Questionably Disco" and "Blue Steel"



Another Nathan Burgundy sighting

Spring Track



Will Turner runs a practice relay: This will look great on a brochure.

MBA Science Olympiad



Jonathan Lundy(r) to Derek Pitman(l) at Science Olympiad: "Wrong... that's not it."

Lacrosse

Continued from p. 1

and, although losing by two, MBA played extremely well against Lovett. By the end of the spring break trip, the lacrosse team now had a record of 7-2. After a week of relaxation, the team got back on the winning track and beat Christian Brothers 13-5. On April Fool's, the team met at MBA at six in the morning in order to board a bus that would take them down to Memphis where they would play their rivals, MUS. The team unloaded and played a tight game against the Owls. The Big Red defense was able to hold MUS from scoring in the last minute, giving MBA the win by one. The team now faces Ravenwood, a new team in division I, next Thursday in Brentwood. With the help of great new coaching, a strong new offense, and a dynamic defense, Big Red Lacrosse has forged a name for itself as a state championship competitor.

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SOUNDS FROM THE STAINED GLASS

Wilco Lights Up Ryman

by KEVIN SEITZ
Editor-In-Chief

On St. Patrick's evening, as the foggy blue lights lit the dusty haze of Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, Jeff Tweedy took the stage before the shadowy figures of his band. Over the last eleven years, Tweedy and his fellow bandmates have set forth from their "alt-country" beginnings on a self-

proclaimed mission of "innovation." Their five significant studio releases since that time have followed just such a progression, culminating in a performance group that is among the most impressive of any touring American rock act today.

Paying homage to the legacies of Johnny Cash and Hank Williams Sr., Wilco began their set with a number of subdued songs that languidly twanged along.

"Playing in this room is really fun," commented Tweedy, who paused for a moment before returning to the microphone again with a chuckle, "wordsmith... It's really neat."

It wasn't long, though, before the show fell into the relentlessly powerful swing it would maintain for the rest of the night. Wilco has made deliberate efforts over the last few years to maintain a constant search for "improvisation," practicing with deliberate efforts to bring a fresh approach to every rendition of every song they deliver. All of their labor has yielded a group of six musicians who seem unafraid to take the delicate songs and

tear them at the seams without ever truly losing sight of the song as a whole.

With the help of guitarist Nels Cline, Tweedy disintegrated every other song into a wall of raucous noise, torturing their guitars into sounds, beats, and tones that miraculously held together in a coherent piercing and swirling sensation, through which Tweedy's unassuming voice calmly plowed on.

When the chaos fell away, however, one found the simple melody surprisingly stronger and more intense than before.

Wilco performed 24 songs in all, sampling major hits and deep cuts from at least six albums. With two encores, they stayed true to the spirit of their latest release, a live album entitled *Kicking Television*, preserving original studio versions in their integrity but reinvigorating them in ways that only such a strong live act can accomplish.

They threw in two new, (though relatively unremarkable), songs, "Walken" and "Either Way," but the true glory of the night came after the planned setlist stated: "Go backstage. Drink more beer." Tweedy, after a quick word to his retreating bandmates, grabbed an acoustic guitar and stated simply, "I just wanna play this song the way it was meant to be played." He then proceeded to step in front of the mic, to the edge of the stage, and begin the song, "Acuff Rose," un-amped and un-miced in any way. It's an experience one could have expected only in the very living room of the man's personal home.

His voice was pitifully quiet in the massively dark room, but the crowd, which had been deafening only moments before, was utterly silent as Tweedy delivered an ending which won't soon be forgotten by anyone fortunate enough to hear it.



Former bassist for Uncle Tupelo, Jeff Tweedy of Wilco

OAR Returns To The Ryman, Rocks Nashville

by DAVID REYNOLDS
Staff Writer

Shortly following O.A.R.'s (Of A Revolution) first appearance at the Ryman Auditorium and extravagant praises that came after the show, I garnered both discs of their live album, *Any Time Now*, to judge just how awe-inspiring their live shows really were. I was soon overtaken by the harmony of acoustic and electric

guitar with tenor saxophone, and the live album became one of my more frequently played CDs. My disappointment with missing their first show at the Ryman grew each time I listened through the tracks, and I always hoped they would return so I could experience one of their concerts. Needless to say, when I heard they were returning to Nashville on February 22, I jumped at the opportunity to buy tickets and eagerly anticipated the arrival of the band.

O.A.R. shook the confines of the Ryman even though not playing to the perfection I had built up in my mind, based on reviews from the 2004 show. Though I stood in the upper deck and off to the right, the band helped prove the legend that this mecca of the concert industry does not contain a bad seat, as I could easily see, hear, and feel every aspect of music.

As I had imagined, the crowd sang nearly as loud as the band, and with various die-hard fans mimicking the flowing lyrics off key, this crowd was an integral part of the experience that made it more enjoyable. The band obviously had a familiarity with this phenomenon as well, with lead singer Mark Roberge even

making up new lyrics for two of their more popular songs, "Crazy Game of Poker" and "City on Down," to silence the crowd for at least a few moments. The band played mostly their newer material from the release *Stories of a Stranger*, a slight disappointment to me and others who enjoy the music from the older albums more, but the show still proved excellent with the best point occurring during the long instrumental interludes and the final choruses of the song "Whose Chariot" with the entire audience dancing and singing to the rhythm of the music.

Music City and O.A.R. simply seem to go together. Fans have sold out the Ryman in a matter of minutes for both of their appearances, and the band seems to enjoy playing for its devoted fan base. Shortly before their last song ("Anyway"), a piece of paper thrown from the crowd managed to make it onto stage and Roberge picked it up to read it. After consulting with band members briefly, he stated in response, "We'll play Bonnaroo again if they ask us," illustrating their love for their fans. If you ever has the chance to attend one of their shows, I urge you to experience it. Though maybe not the best show you will ever attend, you will never forget the heart, soul, and love with which O.A.R. plays.



Lead-singer Marc Roberge of OAR



The legendary Ryman Auditorium is consistently ranked as a top venue in the country

London

Continued from p.1

favorite among the group, the most entertaining and enthralling of the different productions we saw.

During the day, Mr. Morrison found some of the best places in London to eat, not simply tourist places, but frequented more by the locals than visitors. Fish & Chips were popular, as well as the various pizza places around the city. The open air markets were fun as well. We went to both, first to Portobello Road, the famous destination for anyone in the market for antiques, and then we went to Camden Town to the market there. The Camden Market was more of a cultural experience than Portobello Road, but an experience that was entertaining to say the least.

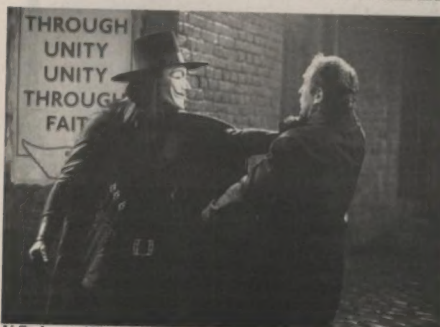
The best part about London is the availability of the Tube. Any station anywhere in the city can take you to any other station in the city quickly and easily. Each person who went on this year's London adventure returned home having enjoyed himself, and with a new appreciation for British culture and customs that can only be acquired by immersion into the people and the land from which they originate.

MOVING PICTURE REPORTS

Rocco Returns Four

by JOHN ROCCO
Entertainment Editor**V for Vendetta- 4 out of 4 stars**

Starring Natalie Portman, *V for Vendetta* is and probably will be one of the most powerful and moving films of the year. Set in a futuristic and authoritarian Britain, this movie appears very realistic and seems as if it could happen. There are many references to the Holocaust with its regulations and concentration camps, and I believe that the director seems to connect this futuristic movie with events of the past. Not only are the action scenes incredible, but there are also many smart and witty comments that the characters create. Evey (Portman) is rescued by a masked man known as "V," but he seems to have an almost insane side to him. He believes that this government is devastating because of the fear it creates for its people, and he plans to create a revolution in order to change it. Hopefully by this point in the year you are taking my recommendations seriously. I strongly urge you to see this movie in the theater in order to get the full experience on the big screen.



V finds a terrific balance between cartoon and action film

Inside Man- 3 out of 4 stars

Starring Denzel Washington (*Man on Fire*, *Training Day*, *Malcolm X*), Clive Owen (*Sin City*, *Closer*, *King Arthur*), and Jodie Foster (*Panic Room*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Taxi Driver*), Spike Lee (*25th Hour*, *Summer of Sam*, *Do the Right Thing*) directed this clever film about a bank robbery. Although this movie has much more action and a completely different mood from any of his other films, I believe Spike Lee has reinforced his previous success through it. Detective Keith Frazier (Washington) must face a clever robber called Dalton Russell (Owen) with many hostages, but Madeline White (Foster) interferes in the case with the help of a higher authority. If you are expecting blood, explosions, and many action scenes, *Inside Man* is definitely

not the movie to see. But if you want a clever drama that will keep you thinking until the end, I would recommend this film to you.

The Hills Have Eyes- 3.5 out of 4 stars

Probably one of the goriest movies of the year, *The Hills Have Eyes* took my breath away. Starring Aaron Stanford (*X2*, *25th Hour*), and Emilie de Ravin ("Lost," "CSI: Miami"), the actors and actresses worked incredibly well in this movie because they are not very "Hollywood." The story line is very simple, but I really enjoyed every second of this movie. When a family decides to take a road trip, they become stranded on a path that seems to be uninhabited. They soon discover that their car crash was not an accident. Many years ago this deserted land was a government atomic zone, and the townspeople living there mutated into these gruesome and terrifying figures because of the radioactivity. These mutants blame their problems on people passing by, and now this family must fight for their freedom. With many gruesome scenes of death and violence, anyone

who loves horror films will absolutely adore *The Hills Have Eyes*. This movie was actually a remake of a Wes Craven film of 1977.

Slither- 3 out of 4 stars

With horror, gore, and comedy combined into one film, I knew this movie would be incredible. Starring Nathan Fillion (*Serenity*, "Buffy

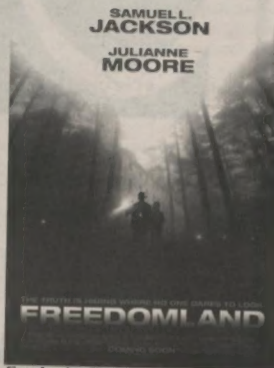
the Vampire Slayer," *Saving Private Ryan*) and Elizabeth Banks (*Spider-Man 2*, *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, *Catch Me If You Can*), this film had many terrifying but hilarious scenes, but many of the scenes were just plain awkward. I expected it to be like *Shaun of the Dead*, but I have never seen a movie like this one. When a meteor hits the earth, little creatures that look like slugs take over the brains of their victims. When pets and animals are missing and people are beginning to act strange, the town soon discovers that an invasion is taking place. With many sexually disturbing images that take place in the film, I do not recommend that anyone see this with their parents or girlfriends. I do think, however, that many people would enjoy viewing this movie with their friends.

Freedomland Falls Flat

by KEVIN THOMAS
Entertainment Editor

Starring Samuel L. Jackson (*Pulp Fiction*, *Jackie Brown*), Julianne Moore (*The Big Lebowski*, *Boogie Nights*, *Magnolia*), Edie Falco (*The Sopranos*, *Bullets Over Broadway*), and William Forsythe (*American Me*, *Gotti*). I had expected much more from this thriller because of the superb cast, but it failed to deliver in many aspects. The film was slow in places, and the plot was unappealing and dull. It follows a detective (Jackson) who is attempting to find a woman's (Moore's) supposedly missing child. As the film reaches the end, it turns out that the child is not missing at all. Despite a stunning performance by Samuel L. Jackson, *Freedomland* failed the keep me interested in the plot. Furthermore, Julianne Moore's character got a little irritating after awhile, and she became increasingly less sympathetic to the viewer. The film had the potential to be a great movie, but director Joe Roth has a

lot to learn about directing movies. If you want to see an absolutely flawless detective thriller, rent Roman Polanski's *Chinatown* and skip this one. (3 of 5 stars)



Freedomland boasts an impressive cast

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by HUNTER KOPALD
Business Manager

I don't know where you were Thursday 8th period, but I was with some fellow seniors throwing a Frisbee on the new turf. That stuff is cool. Sure, it may not be "worked in" enough for football players to really benefit from its technology, but it was still a lot of fun. Now I know fun isn't really allowed during school, but we enjoyed ourselves anyway, thanks to Joe Davis and the new rubber field. Give him the demerits.

Anyway, as I was saying, this new artificial grass is just really cool. It has some sort of mystical aura that made me all tingly inside and clearly gave the other seven seniors an energy that is rare for a Thursday afternoon. I am genuinely excited about the next time I get to enjoy myself on this field of pleasure. It has a rubbery bounciness and a plastic cleanliness that I have never before encountered in my life.

Then I got to thinking: if this turf makes people want to come back, why not put it everywhere?

That's right, my proposal for the Senior Class Gift is a remodeling of both quads to take out the natural grass and install more turf. Just imagine.

I'm not proposing that we take out the walkways or the brick patio in front of Ball, just that this artificial turf replace the grass that is currently a confusing obstacle when walking to class. I'm sure you all have noticed the strange phenomenon that occurs between classes as a student walking from the Library side of Ingram to the Ball doors avoids the grass like hot lava. Why people do this I have no idea, but I do know that the new turf would undoubtedly put an end to this insanely roundabout way of walking to class.

There wouldn't be any blotches of less-than-perfect grass, there would be

no messy mud after rain or snow, and, best of all, Mr. Chenery could sleep in peace knowing that we would never again hear the grass whisper "stop walking on me! Get off the grass!" Furthermore, this mysteriously empowered turf would attract new students, faculty, and donors to the MBA community. The new mat would act as a magnet for improving and enlarging everything about MBA.

The Board of Trustees should also consider replacing the lower field with this turf as well, because the splotchy (at best) carpet that covers it now is hardly an attractive sight from Harding Road.

But to The Administration (you know who you are): don't worry. [To take a line from the generically critical student writer] the fun-loving spirit of this artificial grass would undoubtedly be smothered by the rigorous and studious atmosphere of the MBA quadrangle, and absolutely no fun would take place on the turf during school hours.

Though this year's senior class is in no agreement with The Administration's no-fun policy, we have no problem torturing future classes with this brilliantly green, enticingly energetic turf in the quad.

Senior Class President Andy Snyder, who has experienced the turf's awesomeness first hand, has given this class gift proposal his full support, especially since his aquarium pitch was shot down after a series of brief thoughts by the high ranking officials of The Administration.

You keen readers may be thinking, "What about the trees? Even if we could build turf around the trees, the leaves would fall and would have to be cleaned up to maintain the gloriousness that is this fake grass." Well, the solution is simple: fake trees. Huge, billowing fake oaks and towering fake pines to shade the

scholarly student body in a stroll through our now-perfect quad. In our current situation, we may have nature all around us, but it is nowhere near the excellence that the MBA community deserves. We should embark on several fundraising endeavors to purchase the installation of a perfect quad, a quad that will be both visually and mentally stimulating.

Just imagine a quad filled with this new super turf. Imagine the tingle you

will feel as you step onto the campus each day, the perfect fake grass energizing you to be the best Gentleman, the best Scholar, and the best Athlete you can be.

And if you don't quite believe my fascination of this new turf, just try it out for yourself. Take some time to run around on it, throw a Frisbee with some friends. But don't have any fun, because that's still not allowed.

COME SEE...

MBA's Student-Directed One Act Plays

William Schuller - "Purgatory"

Eric Hagemeyer - "Don Perlimplin"

Matthew Behar - "Best Daddy"

McLean Grindell - "Sure Thing"

Davey Douglas - "Oedi"

Andy Snyder - "Guys"

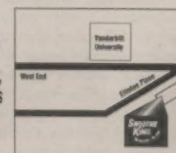
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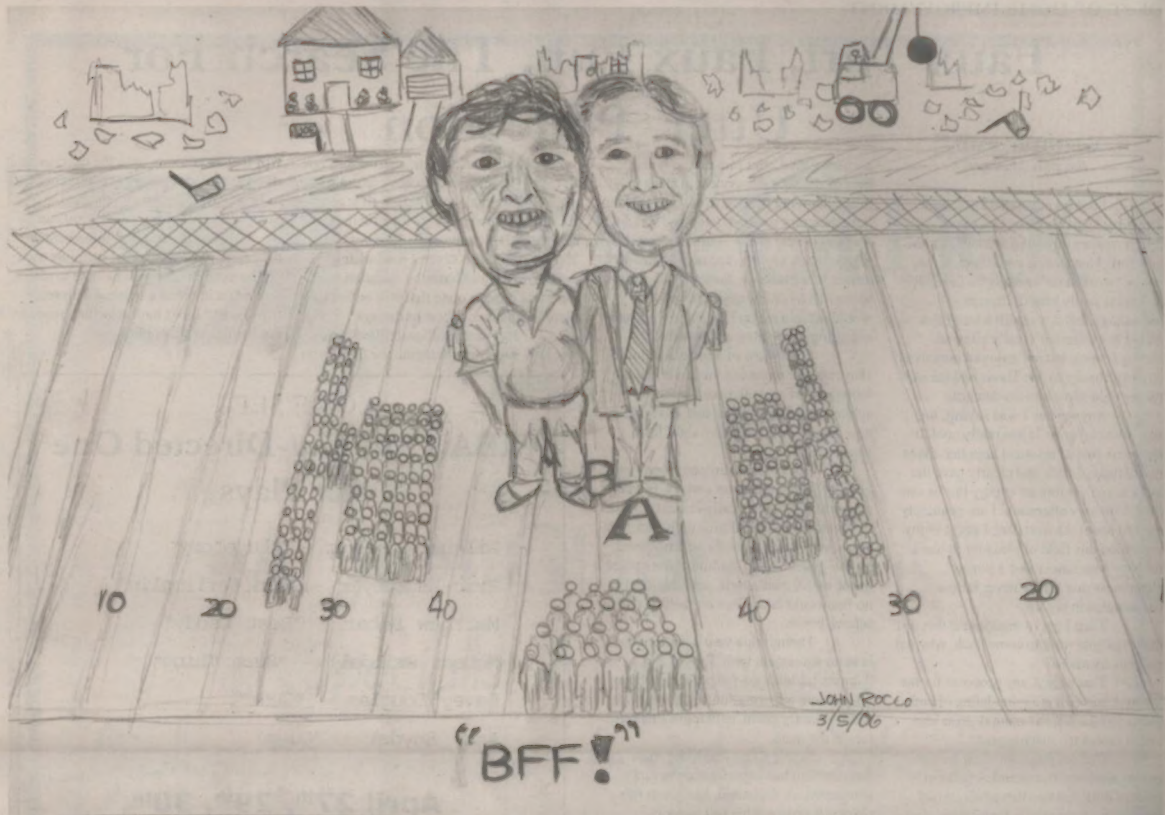


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While Mr. Tillman was out:



We're not sure if it actually happened! Look! Haven't you? And... Snyder's smoothies!



Compliments of a Friend

From a Member of the MBA Class of '63